
Board of Selectmen/School Committee/Finance Committee
Minutes of Triboard Meeting
October 22, 2014

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Kowalski called the Triboard Meeting of the Board of Selectmen/ Finance Committee/School Committee to order at 7:03 P.M. in the School Committee Room in the School Administration Building. Present from the Board of Selectmen: P. Salafia –Y, M. O'Donoghue-Y, and A. Vispoli-Y. and D. Kowalski-Y,

Finance Committee Chair S. Jon Stumpf opened the meeting for the Finance Committee. Present from the Finance Committee: J. Marden-Y, M. Kruse-Y, L. Anderson-Y, G. Serrao-Y, E. Moffitt-Y, J. Barry, Jr.-Y, M. Arai, Y, B. Zahorik-Y, and S. Jon Stumpf-Y.

School Committee Chair Annie Gilbert opened the meeting for the School Committee. Present from the School Committee: P. Colby-Clements-Y, A. Gilbert-Y, D. Birnbach-Y, and J. Blumstein-Y.

Also present: Town Manager Reginald S. Stapczynski, Superintendent Marinel McGrath, Assistant Superintendent Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos, Assistant Town Manager Steve Bucuzzo and Finance Director Donna Walsh. The meeting was duly posted and cablecast live.

II. Opening Ceremonies/Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Kowalski led the members in a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Town to Present Budget Revenue Drivers

The Town Manager explained how they look at the revenue chart (created by Jon Stumpf) and what directs it. The drivers of the revenue chart include available revenue from property tax, new growth which averages \$1.5M per year, local aid which has been stagnant with only a slight increase this year, and local revenues that include income from motor vehicle excise taxes, license and permit fees, hotel/motel/meal tax, etc. There was drop in interest income which fluctuates with the economy reducing those additional funds. Fixed costs include contractual and capital costs, retirement obligations/ OPEB, and State assessments. The balance in revenue, after paying for fixed costs, is divided between the Town and School for their yearly operating expenses.

Property Taxes, the biggest source of revenue, were \$114,580,485 for FY-14 and estimated at \$117,844,997 for FY-15. State reimbursement from school projects offsets the debt service. The new MSBA adjusted monthly dollars will end in 2017. Every year we wait to find out what our State Aid will be (usually provided in late January) and in 2014 received \$11,977,454 and estimating \$12,608,087 for FY-15; however, the information may be delayed this year due to the change in State leadership.

Our General Local Revenues continue to provide about \$10M each year with \$9,763,673 in FY-14, and the same is expected for FY-15.

Questions from Tri-board members:

New Growth - When will Schneider Electric & the new Medical Facility impact the budget? *In 2016*

Solar Array on Rte 93 - *The State is pursuing and will be providing information on how to tax solar facilities, homeowner's will be exempt.*

Will there be any change in the numbers shown tonight after the tax rate is set in November? *New growth is likely to change once it is certified but the numbers will be relatively close to the estimate.*

Discussion:

The members discussed the budget process, the Town Manager and School Superintendent's presentations for Triboard, changing the format and refining the schedule.

The Town Manager is responsible for meeting with the Department Heads and determining budget dollars while providing the opportunity for him to talk with Department Heads on what their current and future needs are.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned prior to the completion of the agenda due to the loss of power which limited public access to the building (elevator), recording of the meeting.

At 8:03 P.M. on a motion by Alex Vispoli and seconded by Paul Salafia, the Board of Selectmen voted 4-0 to adjourn from the Triboard Meeting. Roll call: A. Vispoli-Y, D. Kowalski-Y, M. O'Donoghue-Y, and P. Salafia-Y.

On a motion by Paula Colby-Clements, and seconded by Joel Blumstein, the School Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn from the Triboard Meeting. Roll call: A. Gilbert-Y, D. Birnbach-Y, P. Colby-Clements-Y, and J. Blumstein-Y.

On a motion by Max Arai and seconded by Margaret Kruse, the Finance Committee voted to adjourn the Triboard Meeting: J. Marden-Y, , M. Kruse-Y, L. Anderson-Y, G. Serrao-Y, E. Moffitt-Y, J. Barry, Jr.-Y, M. Arai-Y, B. Zahorik-Y, and S. Jon Stumpf-Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary